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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method ~~of identifying key images in a document~~, comprising:

receiving a document comprising text and a plurality of images, each of the plurality of images having a location in the document;

extracting one or more document keywords from ~~[[a]]~~ the document;

~~collecting one or more images associated with the document, each image having a location in the document;~~

generating a proximity factor for each pair of ~~the one or more~~ one of the plurality of images and ~~the one or more~~ one of the document keywords, the proximity factor reflecting a degree of correlation between the image and the document keyword of the pair; and

determining the importance of each ~~image in the document~~ of the plurality of images according to an image metric that combines the proximity factors for each document keyword and image pair.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising presenting one or more of the plurality of images ~~the images within the document~~ determined to be important on a display device.

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3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
ordering the document keywords according to an ordering criterion; and
weighting the proximity factor associated with each document keyword and image pair
based on the order of the document keyword.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the frequency that each document keyword
appears in the document determines the ordering criterion used to order the document keywords.
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the document has a subject
matter and the ordering criterion orders the document keywords according to their relationship
with the subject matter of the document.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising identifying image text
associated with each image of the ~~one or more images~~ plurality of images.
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein identifying image text comprises:
scanning a bit-mapped representation of the image for text information; and
converting the bit-mapped representation of the text information into image text.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein identifying image text
comprises:
searching metadata information associated with the image for text describing the image.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the metadata information is compatible with
hypertext markup language (HTML).
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein generating the proximity factor
for an image and a document keyword of a document keyword and image pair further comprises

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lexically analyzing the image text associated with the image and the document keyword to determine the degree of correlation between the image and the document keyword.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein generating the proximity factor for an image and a document keyword of a document keyword and image pair further comprises performing a phonetic comparison between the image text associated with the image and the document keyword to determine the degree of correlation between the image and the document keyword.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the proximity factor for an image and a document keyword of a document keyword and image pair further comprises:
identifying the location of the image in the document; and
measuring the distance in the document between the image ~~in the document~~ and the document keyword; and
determining the correlation between the document keyword and the image according to the distance between the document keyword and the image.

13-26. Canceled

27. (Currently amended) An apparatus ~~for identifying key images in a document,~~
comprising:
means for receiving a document comprising text and a plurality of images, each of the plurality of images having a location in the document;
means for extracting one or more document keywords from ~~[[a]]~~ the document;
~~means for collecting one or more images associated with the document, each image having a location in the document;~~

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means for generating a proximity factor for each pair of ~~the one or more~~ one of the plurality of images and ~~the one or more~~ one of the document keywords, the proximity factor reflecting a degree of correlation between the image and the document keyword of the pair; and

means for determining the importance of each ~~image in the document~~ of the plurality of images according to an image metric that combines the proximity factors for each document keyword and image pair.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising:

means for ordering the document keywords according to an ordering criterion; and

means for weighting the proximity factor associated with each document keyword and image pair based on the order of the document keyword.

29. (Currently amended) A computer program product, tangibly embodied in a machine-readable storage device, ~~for identifying key images in a document~~, the product comprising instructions operable to cause a computer to:

receive a document comprising text and a plurality of images, each of the plurality of images having a location in the document;

extract one or more document keywords from ~~[[a]]~~ the document;

~~collect one or more images associated with the document, each image having a location in the document;~~

generate a proximity factor for each pair of ~~the one or more~~ one of the plurality of images and ~~the one or more~~ one of the document keywords, the proximity factor reflecting a degree of correlation between the image and the document keyword of the pair; and

determine the importance of each ~~image in the document~~ of the plurality of images according to an image metric that combines the proximity factors for each document keyword and image pair.

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30. (Currently amended) The product of claim 29 further comprising instructions to:
present one or more of the plurality of images ~~the images within the document~~
determined to be important on a display device.
31. (Previously presented) The product of claim 29 further comprising instruction to:
order the document keywords according to an ordering criterion; and
weigh the proximity factor associated with each document keyword and image pair based
on the order of the document keyword.
32. (Previously presented) The product of claim 31 wherein the frequency that each
document keyword appears in the document determines the ordering criterion used to order the
document keywords.
33. (Previously presented) The product of claim 31 wherein the document has a subject
matter and the ordering criterion orders the document keywords according to their relationship
with the subject matter of the document.
34. (Currently amended) The product of claim 29 further comprising instructions to identify
image text associated with each image ~~of the one or more images~~ of the plurality of images.
35. (Currently amended) The product of claim 34 wherein the instructions to identify image
text ~~comprises~~ comprise instructions to:
scan a bit-mapped representation of the image for text information; and
convert the bit-mapped representation of the text information into image text.
36. (Currently amended) The product of claim 34 wherein the instructions to identify image
text ~~comprises~~ comprise instructions to:
search metadata information associated with the image for text describing the image.

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37. (Previously presented) The product of claim 36 wherein the metadata information is compatible with hypertext markup language (HTML).

38. (Currently amended) The product of claim 34 wherein the instructions to generate the proximity factor for an image and a document keyword of a document keyword and image pair further ~~comprises~~ comprise instructions to lexically analyze the image text associated with the image and the document keyword to determine the degree of correlation between the image and the document keyword.

39. (Currently amended) The product of claim 34 wherein the instructions to generate the proximity factor for an image and a document keyword of a document keyword and image pair further ~~comprises~~ comprise instructions to perform a phonetic comparison between the image text associated with the image and the document keyword to determine the degree of correlation between the image and the document keyword.

40. (Currently amended) The product of claim 29 wherein the instructions to generate the proximity factor for an image and a document keyword of a document keyword and image pair further ~~comprises~~ comprise instructions to:

identify the location of the image in the document; ~~and~~

measure the distance between the image in the document and the document keyword; ~~and~~

determine the correlation between the document keyword and the image according to the distance between the document keyword and the image.

41. (Canceled)
